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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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15 OCT 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, ☐ National Reconnaissance Office
SUBJECT : Acquisition and Conversion of two U-2
Aircraft to J-75 Configuration

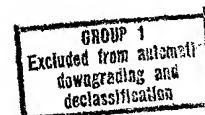
1. To proceed further on the basis of the agreements reached by Dr. Charyk and Dr. Scoville to convert two additional U-2 aircraft to the J-75 engine configuration and with an aerial refueling capability (ARE), we have authorized the contractor to proceed with this work under current contracts. It appears that between 3 and 4 months will be required for the conversion and modification work, and the contractor estimates the first aircraft will not be operational before the early part of March 1963. This is based on the delivery of a J-57 U-2 to the factory by 5 November 1962. The second aircraft would follow a month later, based on delivery of an additional J-57 U-2 to the factory by early December 1962.

2. The total cost given by the contractor for full conversion of two aircraft to the larger engine with aerial refueling and beacon installed ☐ This amount includes one set of fabricated sheet metal parts for an additional configuration and a small sum of radio navigational gear GFAE. It does not include additional aircraft engines or electronic and photographic systems to equip the two additional U-2's for overflight missions. These will be furnished from the present program. A separate study is being initiated to evaluate our present assets of engines and systems as well as facilities and people essential for operating eight U-2 aircraft. Results of this study will be provided to you upon completion.

3. For scheduling purposes, it is desired that Aircraft #367 be selected from FOG assets as the first aircraft for factory conversion to the J-75. The second aircraft could conceivably from a timing standpoint, be the FOG U-2 #350 which is presently assigned to the contractor for instrument testing in connection with the OXCART Program.

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4. It is desired that funds in the amount of [] be released at this time to provide for the J-73 conversion work. Scheduling details of the aircraft to be converted will be handled by the two staffs in USAF (AFCIG-5) and DD/R.

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Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

Signature recommended:

JACK C. LEDFORD
Colonel USAF
Assistant Director, OSA

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